



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

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Date:

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health
Committee on Resources
United States House of Representatives
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3702

Dear Chairman Walden:

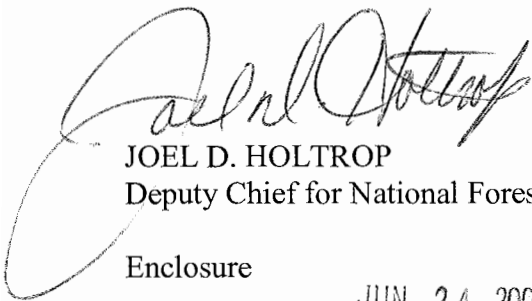
This letter is in response to your May 24, 2005, letter requesting information on the amount of Forest Service timber sale volume that is currently affected by appeals and litigation.

The Forest Service estimates that nearly 1.6 billion board feet are under litigation as of May 31, 2005 (see enclosure). This estimate is derived from upward reporting from forests to the nine Forest Service regional offices, then polling of the regional offices by the Washington Office.

At this time, we do not have estimates for the timber volume under appeal. Forests do not report the number or character of projects under appeal to the regional offices given the decentralized nature of our appeal regulations (36 CFR 215). Appeals of district ranger decisions are processed at the forest level without an upward reporting requirement.

In the upcoming year, however we plan to complete a Planning, Appeals and Litigation System (PALS) database that will capture both appeals and litigation information. This database will not only improve our program management, it will enable us to share information in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief for National Forest System

Enclosure

JUN 24 2005



**Attachment. Volume of Timber Under Litigation
By Forest Service Region.**

Volume of Timber under Litigation (As of May 31, 2005)	
Region	Volume under Litigation (Million Board Feet)
1	282
2	12
3	15
4	289
5	202
6	277
8	50
9	200
10	229
Total	1,556